

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2003-327-C**

IN RE: Continued Availability of Unbundled       )  
High Capacity Loops at Certain Locations and       )  
Unbundled High Capacity Transport on Certain       )  
Routes Pursuant to the Federal Communication       )  
Commission's Triennial Review Order               )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

**HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.'S OBJECTIONS TO BELL SOUTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS,  
INTERROGATORIES, AND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("HTC"), pursuant to the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, the South Carolina Public Service Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (S.C. Code of Regulations R. 103-800, *et seq.*), and Commission Order No. 2003-730 ("Procedural Order"), objects generally and specifically to BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s ("BellSouth") Request for Admissions, Interrogatories, and Requests for Production of Documents ("BellSouth Discovery"), served on January 28, 2004, as described below.

HTC is filing these objections in order to comply with the ten (10) day requirement contained in the Procedural Order. These objections are preliminary in nature, and HTC reserves the right to amend, supplement, or revise these objections, and assert additional objections, should HTC discover additional grounds for objecting at any time prior to hearing.

**General Objections to BellSouth's Discovery**

1. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the requests are overly broad, lack specificity, are unduly burdensome or excessively time-consuming, or are irrelevant

and not likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence pursuant to the Procedural Order, the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, or applicable South Carolina law.

2. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the requests seek discovery of information protected by attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the accountant-client privilege, or any other applicable privilege.

3. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the requests purport to impose discovery obligations on HTC beyond the scope of what is permitted under the Procedural Order, the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, or applicable South Carolina law.

4. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the requests purport to seek discovery of matters other than those subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Triennial Review Order ("TRO") or applicable South Carolina law.

5. HTC objects to all of BellSouth's Discovery that requires the disclosure of information that already is in the public domain, that is in the possession of BellSouth or is readily obtainable by BellSouth, or that is otherwise on record with the Commission or the FCC.

6. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the requests seek information and discovery of facts known and opinions held by experts acquired and/or developed in anticipation of litigation or for hearing and outside the scope of discoverable information pursuant to the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable South Carolina law.

7. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that they request specific financial, business or proprietary information regarding HTC's economic business model, on the grounds that those requests presume that the market entry analysis is contingent upon

HTC's economic business model instead of the hypothetical business model contemplated by the TRO.

8. HTC objects to BellSouth's Discovery to the extent that the information requested constitutes "trade secrets" or confidential research, development, or commercial information, or to the extent that the information requested would require the disclosure of customer specific information.

9. HTC objects to the "Definitions" section to the extent that it utilizes terms that are subject to multiple interpretations, but are not properly defined or explained for purposes of the BellSouth Discovery, or to the extent that the terms used are incorrect or misleading.

10. HTC objects to the BellSouth Discovery that seeks to obtain "all," "each," or "every" document, item, or other such pieces of information to the extent that such discovery is overly broad and unduly burdensome.

11. HTC objects to the BellSouth discovery to the extent such discovery seeks to have HTC create documents not in existence at the time of the request.

12. HTC objects to the BellSouth Discovery to the extent such discovery is not limited to any stated period of time, or pertains to a stated period of time that is longer than is relevant for purposes of the issues in this docket, as such discovery is overly broad and unduly burdensome.

### **Specific Objections to BellSouth's Discovery**

In addition to the general objections stated above, HTC objects specifically to Request No. 4 on the grounds that it requests information on inside wiring, which is a deregulated service not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission; that it requests information that is not relevant

to this proceeding and is not likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence; and that it seeks proprietary and confidential business information.

Subject to and without waiving the general and specific objections stated above, HTC intends to provide responses to items 1, 2, and 3 of the BellSouth Discovery within the time frames set forth in the Procedural Order.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of February, 2004.

/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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